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CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

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NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM JAN 11, 1994

BOB WAHLSTROM'S HOUSE

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MEETING PLACE CHANGED
TO BOB'S HOUSE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hopefully you have all figured out that the meeting is at Bob's house again this month. There it will be possible to perform TI-Ham Radio demos, BBS demos, etc. that were not possible at our former location. Thank's Bob. I am in the need of a little, well maybe alot of help. In our library is a program called MAX-RLE along with some DF128 files that can be displayed. Where did these come from? I tried downloading some GIF files from an IBM BBS using TELCO. When I tried to display them, my screen turned the normal gray color, but the image never appeared. Am I doing something wrong or do the files have to be downloaded with an IBM and then converted to TI? Someone should write an article about this, or maybe someone has and I just missed it. Any ideas?

JEFF CRAFT

CHRISTMAS EVE from the Tacoma Informer - about 1988

Twas the night before the TI-FAIRE and all through the house,
 Only the COMPUTER was stirring, run by its own little MOUSE.
 The HARD-DRIVE was hung in the PE-BOX with care,
 In hopes that some SOFTWARE soon would be there.

The SPRITES were nestled all snug in their GROMS,
 While cute LOGO TURTLES danced in their E-PROMS
 And mama with her 32-K and I with my KRACKER,
 Had just KEYBOARDED in a GAME after supper.

When out in my system there arose such a clatter,
 I sprang to my CONSOLE to see what was the matter.
 I turned on the SURGE and flipped on the switch,
 And my SYSTEM came alive with nary a hitch.

The NOISE and the SOUND in the quiet room,
 Made me fall from my chair with a resounding boom.
 And what to my wondering eyes should appear,
 But a giant CRT with a SCREEN crystal clear.

With a little old PROGRAM so lively and quick,
 I knew in an INSTANCE, it must be GRAPHIC.
 More rapid than LASERS the CURSOR it came,
 And WHISTLED and BEEPED and PRINTED each name.

"Now INPUT! Now OUTPUT! Now MICRO and BASIC!"
 "On FORTH! On PASCAL! On ASSEMBLY and 'C'!"
 To the top of the PRINTER, to DISKETTE and all,
 Now PRINT: "Dash away, Dash away all."

As SPRITES that before a CALL CLEAR can fly,
 Ere they meet with a GCHAR, then do die.
 So right to my MONITOR the CURSOR it flew,
 With a RAM full of MEMORY and a RS232.

And then in a NANOSECOND, I heard with a screech,
 The CLICKING and CLACKING of KEYS from the SPEECH.
 As I lifted my head and was again sitting down,
 I saw IMAGES of 99 that came with a bound.

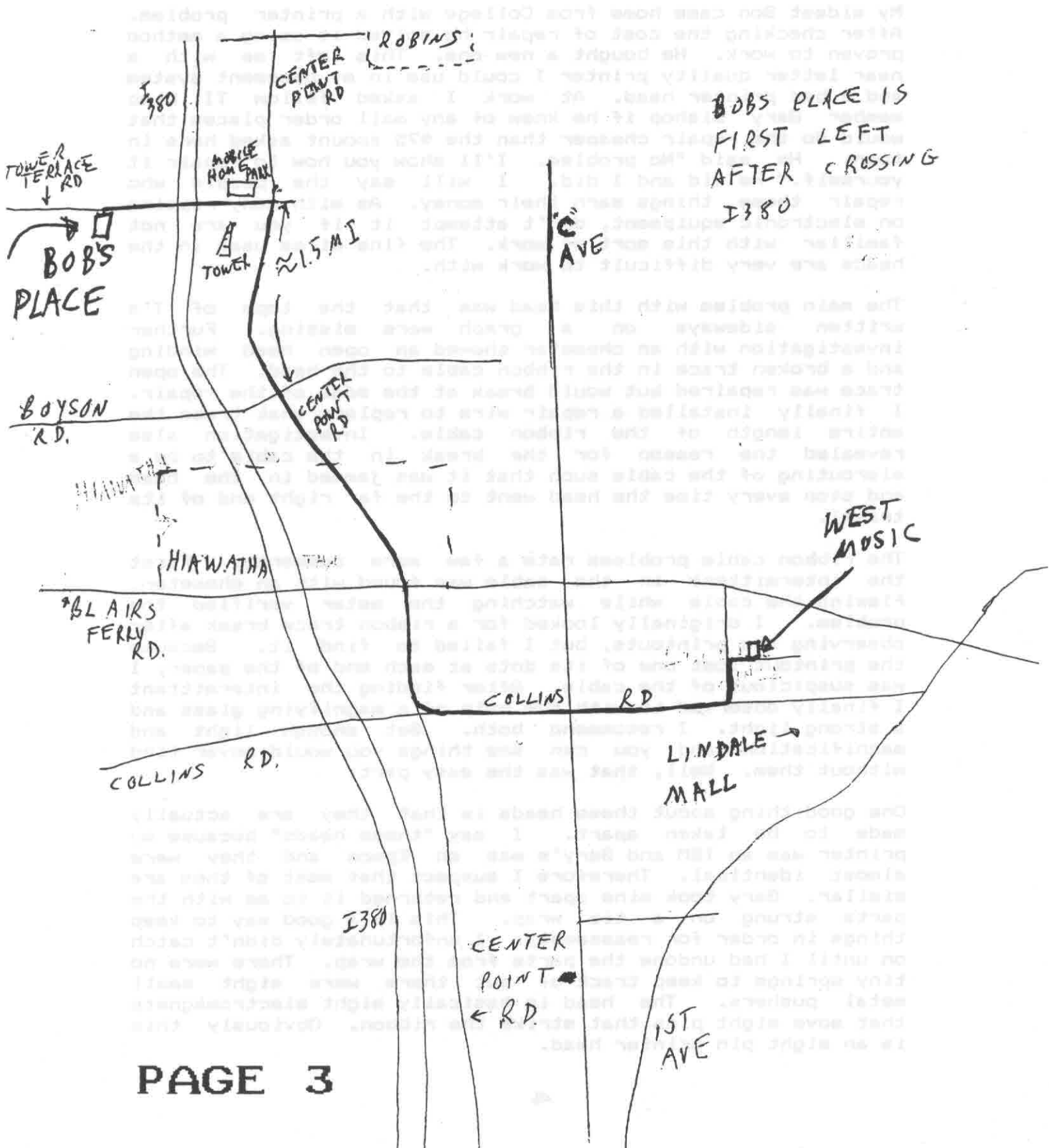
It was shown all in SILVER from it's top to it's SWITCH,
 The KEYBOARD was QWERTY and held not a GLITCH.
 The SCREEN itself was a cool vivid blue,
 But could be changed on a whim to a different hue.

Its CURSOR how it TWINKLED, Why it looked so merry,
 As it raced 'cross the SCREEN with such a scurry.'
 It's MEMORY was flawless, Its COLOR was superb,
 It moved BITS and BYTES with SPEED yet unheard.

It spoke not a word, but went right straight to it's work,
 And filled all the HARDDRIVE and turned with a jerk.
 And changing the SCREEN to a color it chose,
 And giving a blink, up the CRT it arose.

It sprang to my SCREEN, gave a soft little WHISTLE,
 And away it did fly like the down on a thistle.
 And I saw it PRINTOUT as it went out of sight,
 "HAPPY TI-FAIRE TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT"

Printer Head Repair
By Jack Johns



BOBBS PLACE IS
FIRST LEFT
AFTER CROSSING
I380

Printer Head Repair
By Jack Johns

My eldest Son came home from College with a printer problem. After checking the cost of repair he solved it using a method proven to work. He bought a new one. This left me with a near letter quality printer I could use in my basement system and a bad printer head. At work I asked fellow TI Club member Gary Bishop if he knew of any mail order places that would do the repair cheaper than the \$75 amount asked here in town. He said "No problem. I'll show you how to repair it yourself." He did and I did. I will say the people who repair these things earn their money. As with many repairs on electronic equipment, don't attempt it if you are not familiar with this sort of work. The fine wires used in the heads are very difficult to work with.

The main problem with this head was that the tops of T's written sideways on a graph were missing. Further investigation with an ohmmeter showed an open head winding and a broken trace in the ribbon cable to the head. The open trace was repaired but would break at the edge of the repair. I finally installed a repair wire to replace that trace the entire length of the ribbon cable. Investigation also revealed the reason for the break in the cable to be a misrouting of the cable such that it was jammed in the head end stop every time the head went to the far right end of its travel.

The ribbon cable problems rate a few more comments. First the intermittent in the cable was found with an ohmmeter. Flexing the cable while watching the meter verified the problem. I originally looked for a ribbon trace break after observing the printouts, but I failed to find it. Because the printout lost one of its dots at each end of the paper, I was suspicious of the cable. After finding the intermittent I finally observed it with the help of a magnifying glass and a strong light. I recommend both. Get enough light and magnification and you can see things you would never find without them. Well, that was the easy part.

One good thing about these heads is that they are actually made to be taken apart. I say "these heads" because my printer was an IBM and Gary's was an Epson and they were almost identical. Therefore I suspect that most of them are similar. Gary took mine apart and returned it to me with the parts strung on a tie wrap. This is a good way to keep things in order for reassembly. I unfortunately didn't catch on until I had undone the parts from the wrap. There were no tiny springs to keep track of but there were eight small metal pushers. The head is basically eight electromagnets that move eight pins that strike the ribbon. Obviously this is an eight pin printer head.

Printer Head Repair con't.

Now for the gritty grimy details. Obviously not all printers will be the same. I will describe this one in the hopes that it will be similar to yours. This head came out by the removal of the ribbon cartridge, unsnapping the rod the head was mounted on, and unplugging the ribbon cable plug. Next the front pin guide unsnapped from the main head. The heat sink slid right off. The main body also unsnapped from the mount.

When disassembling the main body of the head keep exact track of what order things go together. Hopefully you kept track of how it went so far. The main body contains the eight electromagnets arranged in a circle. They push the levers that move the eight pins that strike the ribbon. This one was held together by a metal back piece with three straps that clip over the front of the body. Unsnap these and the body comes apart. The pin holder and pins will come out the front and the back piece with the spring ring and spacer will come off the back. Removing the pin push levers and holder will reveal the electromagnet coils. They had a soft filler around them but this was easily removed with a scribe.

To remove the coil unsolder its pins on the coil mounting disk. It can be a problem figuring out which pins are for which coil. I just unsoldered what looked like the most likely ones until the coil came out easily. I removed the wire from the coil and CAREFULLY laid it around the room. The break was at the very end where it connected to the pin. Thus the whole wire length could be reused. I had an old coil winder that worked just fine for this job. Gary used a variable speed drill. Something that more of you are likely to have. The main thing to watch for when unwinding and rewinding the coil is to not let that fine wire get snarled. It may be a little thicker than human hair but not much. The insulation on the wire is very strong but can be removed by carefully scraping with a knife blade. Some kinds are also removable with a hot soldering iron.

Reassembly is the reverse of disassembly. I used hot glue on a toothpick to replace the filler around the coil. Good Luck.

EOF..Jack Johns..(!~)

USING TIPS V1.7

by Deanna Sheridan Northcoast 99ers Cleveland, Ohio

[Ed. note--A later version of Tips, v1.8 has been released since this article was written. However, 1.7 is an extremely good version. It can be found on C.O.N.N.I. D.O.M. #44 October 1990. (Also available in CV99er library)]

I have been playing with the TIPS V1.7 this week, especially with the card-making mode. The more you work with this program, the more you will start to like it, especially if you have a color kit for your printer. [Ed. note: works fine without, or buy a colored ribbon--red, green, blue, etc. for your regular printer].

I talked with Ron Wolcott this week (he will be in Chicago at the Faire), and he stated he is still working on some improvements. One, he is trying to make the MENU more user-friendly, and also would like to develop a way to use his graphics with TI-Writer.. He is also working on a way to store your creations for multiple or subsequent printing. In the meantime, remember that you can print them to disk and then print them out with the XBASIC program we gave you a few months ago.

Since I would use TIPS for printing greeting cards, or mailing labels (the mailing label function can also be used to make a nice letterhead), I will guide you through the steps for creating a card.

After loading, the first line is more or less an instruction of what you will be doing. Just press <ENTER> here.

On the next set of options, choose FONT. You can choose from 1 to 9. When the font loads, it will print the characters available, whether all UPPER, or UPPER and LOWER, and what others are available, such as numbers and symbols.

At the next prompt, IMAGE and you will be asked on which drive it is located. This is a nice addition in that your images no longer have to be in Drive 1. They can be on a RAMDISK and up to disk 9. You will be asked to choose a 2-char prefix for the image file you want to access.

Next choose PROCESS. You will be asked for the image name. It helps to have previously printed your file with the TIPS VIEW feature so that you won't have to guess which image you want. You can always view the images one at a time on the screen until you find the one you like, but I would strongly suggest that you work from a pre-printed page.

This would be a good time to access the new feature <CTRL #>. We want the option menu, and would hit <CTRL O>. If necessary, you could select separate drives for your FONTS, VERSE, and INSTANCES. But the feature you really want at this time is DARKNESS. You can set the printer ot overstrike from 1 to 4 times. If you are using a color printer, you can also set your colors at this time. TIPS has a nifty feature called ALTCOLOR. You can choose 'one' color here for your printing, or several colors. If you wanted to use all the colors available with your printer, you would choose 0123456. Thus, each successive printing function will be printed in a different color. You could use just 2 colors by typing 121212 and each printing function would alternately be printed in red and blue.

Thus when printing the 3X4 graphics, if you pause between rows, one row would be red and the next blue, the next red, the next blue, etc. This gives your imagination a workout because there are many possible combinations.

To duplicate the card displayed elsewhere in this issue, you would then choose MESSAGE and type "GREETINGS" (which prints out immediately).

Since you have already chosen your graphic, choose 3X4. If you want to use more than one graphic, choose PAUSE at this time. The first row will print and you can hit <CTRL O> again to choose another image, or color if you have a color option. RETURN and the process will repeat until all four rows have printed.

After printing the 3X4 rows, again choose MSG and type "SEASON'S" which will immediately print.

Next choose INSIDE. You have a couple of choices here. You can print a verse you have previously saved in TI Writer format on the left side while the image prints on the right side. This can be the image printed on the front, or a different one, or the 3X4 feature. I prefer to just have a greeting of my own choosing.

Thus, I chose 'MSG'. In order for it not to start at the very top of the page, I just hit the space bar and <ENTER>. I repeated this a second time, and the third time, I typed the first line, etc. on down.

If you want to 'sign' the card, at this point, you can choose <CTRL O> to get a new font for the signature.

You have just created a very nice greeting card, especially if you have a color printer.

I am sure there are many tips and tricks which one can pick up the more they use this program. With a little patience and practice, this can become one of your favorite graphic printing programs!!!

END

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday

January 11, 1994 6:30PM

**BOB WAHLSTROM'S HOUSE
NORTH OF HIAWATHA
SEE MAP ON PAGE 3**

ATTENTION

MEETING PLACE CHANGED

TO BOB'S HOUSE

Cedar Valley 99'er Users Group
c/o Jim Green
377 Cambridge Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-1446

FIRST CLASS

Send To:
